THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) With the approval of the Ministry of Commerce, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) had appointed the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata to formulate a Plan on restructuring the financing pattern of seafood processing and export industry and its infrastructural requirement. The study *inter-alia* recommended the creation of a Reconstruction Fund to meet these objectives.

(c) Government have examined the suggestion for the creation of the Reconstruction Fund for the seafood industry. However it has not been found possible to support/accept the proposal.

Export of Shrimp to US

2245. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 718 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 2003 and state the steps taken by Government to. ensure that export of shrimp to US does not suffer on account of patent or other WTO obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): The exports of shrimp from India to the U.S.A. are not likely to suffer on account of patent or other WTO obligations. In fact, there is a steady increase of shrimp exports to U.S.A.

Import of fresh garlic

2246. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh garlic is being imported regularly;

(b) if so, the details of the import during the last three years, also names of the exporting countries and the importing agencies; and

(c) the steps taken to regulate import to save domestic growers of garlic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the import of fresh garlic during the last three years and also the names of the exporting countries are contained in the publication "Monthly Statistics of Foreign trade of India, Volume-ll (Imports)-Annual Number" published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the Parliament library. With effect from 17.1.2003, garlic has been removed from the restricted list of imports. As such, it is freely importable by any party.

(c) Along with the removal of garlic from the restricted list of imports, the import tariff on the item has been increased from 35% to 100%.

Sub standard Imported Food and Consumer Items

2247. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several industry associations have complained about the influx of sub standard imported food and consumer items;

(b) whether it is a fact that the domestic products have to pass through a series of quality checks as per BIS standards and the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act but the imported products enter the country without any quality checks;

(c) if so, the details of the sub standard products and their country of origin; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Mandatory Standard Specifications are based on the principle of 'National Treatment' according to which the same quality standards are imposed both on domestic and imported goods.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.